

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 GAC-01 SCEM-02 NSF-04 /080 R

DRAFTED BY SCI/ AE RLLOFTNESS: DRW

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USAEC/ IP- A. FRIEMAN

ACDA - F. HOUCK

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R 112121 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 067449

EO 11652 N/ A

TAGS: TECH ERNG MY

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 1056; B) STATE 046278

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN INTEREST IN USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES

1. DEPT. AND AEC REGRET POSSIBLE CONFUSION RE US POSITION ON USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR EXCAVATION AS RESULT OF TELLER VISIT. US POSITION AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL B DISCUSSED WITH TELLER BY SCI ( LOFTNESS) PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE BUT APPARENTLY HIS PERSONAL ENTHUSIASM FOR USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES GAVE IMPRESSION THAT TREATY CONSTRAINTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE.

2. TELLER VISIT TO BANGKOK WAS AT REQUEST AND EXPENSE OF MR. CHOW, THAI ENTREPRENEUR INTERESTED IN KRA CANAL PROJECT, AND DID NOT IMPLY AEC SUPPORT OR ENDORSEMENT OF PROJECT.

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3. EXCAVATION PROJECTS EMPLOYING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES ARE POSSIBLE BUT GENERALLY COULD NOT BE TERMED " FEASIBLE" UNDER CURRENT CONSTRAINTS OF LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY. MODIFICATION OF LTBT TO PERMIT EXCAVATION PROJECTS LIKELY TO BE LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS.

4. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO MAKE JUDGMENT ON SARAWAK PROJECT WITHOUT DETAILED TECHNICAL STUDY BUT BASED ON CURRENT US POSITION RE EXCAVATION PROJECTS GIVEN REFTEL B, BELIEVE CONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR PROJECT SHOULD BE DEFERRED.

5. COPY OF CHAPTER 4 OF ATLANTIC- PACIFIC INTEROCEANIC CANAL STUDY, RELATING TO USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR CANAL CONSTRUCTION, HAS BEEN ENCLOSED ALONG WITH MATERIAL POUCHED REFTEL B. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK BALANCE BETWEEN TECHNICAL POSSIBILITIES OF USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES FOR EXCAVATION AS DESCRIBED IN TECHNICAL REPORTS AND CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY TREATY CONSIDERATIONS THAT ESSENTIALLY BAR EXCAVATION PROJECTS AT PRESENT.

6. DEPT REGRETS THAT OPPORTUNITY WAS NOT TAKEN TO FORWARD AEC LETTER THROUGH EMBASSY.

7. FOR EMBASSY INFO, LIVERMORE LABORATORY IS CONTRACT LABORATORY OF USAEC. CONTACTS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS REGARDING PNE INFORMATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE DIRECTED TO AEC HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D. C., RATHER THAN DIRECTLY WITH LIVERMORE LAB. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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IAEA VIENNA  
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